

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) An information recording medium which includes a user
2 data area and a medium management information area and which allows update of information,
3 comprising:
4 an alternative area for ~~the area including a defective area~~ on said information
5 recording medium detected when information is recorded or reproduced; ~~and~~
6 a management area for management of correspondence between said ~~area~~
7 ~~including defective area~~ and said alternative area; ~~and~~
8 ~~wherein the information recorded on said information recording medium~~
9 ~~indicative of an for identifying the allowable number of times of recording of information is~~
10 ~~previously recorded on the recording medium.~~

2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently amended): An information recording control method for
2 conducting recording and reproduction of information to an information recording medium
3 having a user data area, an alternative area ~~for the defective area~~, and a medium management
4 information area to ~~execute the~~ store update of information, wherein information ~~for identifying~~
5 ~~said representative of an~~ allowable number of times of recording of information is previously
6 recorded to said information recording medium, said method comprising: if a defect on said
7 information recording medium is detected during recording or reproduction of information, then
8 selectively recording information indicating ~~the a location in said alternative area to said area~~
9 ~~including the that is used in place of said defect is recorded to said medium management~~
10 ~~information area, and wherein said step of selectively recording is performed if a number~~
11 ~~of the recordings to at least said medium management information area made to said information~~
12 ~~recording medium does not exceed the said allowable number of times of recording based on~~

13 ~~said information for identifying the allowable number of times of recording, the recording is~~
14 ~~controlled.~~

1 4. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed in
2 claim 3, wherein ~~the-an~~ information update count is recorded to said medium management
3 information area and ~~the-wherein said~~ update of information ~~is selectively stored~~ to said medium
4 management information area ~~is controlled by comparing based on a comparison of~~ said update
5 count and said allowable number of times of recording.

1 5. (Original): An information recording control method as claimed in claim 4,
2 wherein the recording to said medium management information area is continued when said
3 medium management information area is recorded in multiple on the two or more areas and
4 recording is completed normally to the two or more predetermined number of areas among said
5 multiple recording areas.

1 6. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed in
2 claim 4, wherein if said allowable number of times of recording is set, then allowing updates of
3 recording times to said medium management information area ~~said update count is compared~~
4 ~~with said allowable number of times of recording when said allowable number of times of~~
5 ~~recording is set, when said update count is under less than~~ said allowable number of times of
6 recording, update and not allowing said updates of recording times to said medium management
7 information area ~~is allowed, and when said update count is greater than or equal to said~~
8 ~~allowable number of times of recording or larger, update of recording times to said medium~~
9 ~~management information area is not allowed for the erroneous completion of process, and~~
10 wherein if said allowable number of times of recording is not yet set, then allowing said updates
11 of recording times to said medium management information area ~~is also allowed~~.

7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently amended): An information recording control method for
2 conducting recording and reproduction of information to an information recording medium
3 which allows update of information, comprising the steps of:

4 recording information indicating an alternative area ~~for the~~ associated with a
5 defective area including a defect to the ~~a~~ medium management information area in information
6 recording medium when said defective ~~on~~ said information recording medium ~~is detected at the~~
7 time of ~~during~~ said recording or reproducing information, and

8 controlling ~~the~~ said recording and reproduction of information depending on the
9 number of times ~~of recording~~ of said information indicating said alternative area is recorded to
10 said medium management information area.

1 9. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed in
2 claim 8, wherein the allowable number of times of information is previously recorded to said
3 information recording medium, ~~and~~ said method includes further comprising a step for
4 controlling the recording and reproduction of information by comparing said allowable number
5 of times of recording to ~~the~~ said number of times ~~of recording~~ an alternative area is recorded to
6 said medium management information area.

1 10. (Original): An information recording control method as claimed in claim 9,
2 wherein the information indicating the alternative area is recorded to said medium management
3 information area in multiple to a plurality of areas, and said method also includes the step for
4 continuing the recording and reproduction of information when the recorded information is read
5 out normally from two or more predetermined number of areas among a plurality of said medium
6 management information areas.

1 11. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed
2 in claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said recording and reproduction of information ~~are continued~~ is
3 permitted when ~~the~~ a number of normal areas in said medium management information area is
4 the greater than or equal to a predetermined number, or larger even if ~~the~~ said number of times of

5 ~~recording an alternative area is recorded~~ to said medium management information area is equal
6 ~~to or greater than~~ said allowable number of times of recording ~~or larger~~.

12. (Canceled)

1 13. (New): An information recording medium having a user data area, an
2 alternative area for detected defects, a medium management information area to store update
3 information, wherein information representing an allowable number of times of recording of
4 information is pre-recorded on said information recording medium.

1 14. (New): An information recording medium having a user data area, an
2 alternative area for detected defects, and a medium management information area to store update
3 information, wherein an update count of recordings made to said medium management
4 information area is recorded in said medium management information area, wherein information
5 representative of an allowable number of times of recording of information is previously
6 recorded on said information recording medium.

1 15. (New): An information recording control method for conducting recording
2 and reproduction of information to an information recording medium, said information recording
3 medium having a user data area, an alternative area for the defective area, and a medium
4 management information area to store update information, wherein an update count
5 representative of a number of recordings made to said medium management information area is
6 recorded in said medium management information area, and wherein information representative
7 of an allowable number of times of recording of information is previously recorded on said
8 information recording medium, and wherein recording operations are prevented when said
9 update count exceeds said allowable number of times of recording of information.

1 16. (New): An information recording control method as claimed in claim 15,
2 wherein recording to said medium management information area is permitted when said medium
3 management information area is recorded in two or more areas of said information recording
4 medium and a recording operation to said two or more areas is successfully performed.